Functioning of all India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

*166. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to revamp the functioning of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi;

(b) the reasons for not implementing the new assessment promotion schemes for its faculty members; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDHARTHA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(b) The AIIMS have in the recent past taken many steps like procurement of latest equipment, construction of new buildings, strengthening of various Departments and Centres for improving its functioning in order to provide better patients care, medical research, and upgrading the quality of research. It is planned to restore its referral character by constructing Screening OPD which will not only enable senior faculty members to pay more attention to difficult cases but also to devote more items to teaching and research. It is also proposed to further improve the facilities in the VIIIth Plan by removing the existing inadequacies of accommodation, equipment & staff and providing the latest state of the art diagnostic tools like Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).

(b) and (c). as regards the Assessment Promotion Scheme, the matter is under active consideration of the Government and final decision is likely to be taken shortly.

DR. ASIM BALA: Is it a fact that a Committee has been constituted to look into the promotion prospects of the faculty members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences ? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Members are not expected to misuse the time of the House.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): I have not heard the question. Please repeat it.

DR. ASIM BALA: I wanted to know whether a Committee has been constituted to look into the promotion prospects of the faculty members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in the month of last July or August. They have launched a movement for the implementation of the new Assessment Promotion scheme and staged a Dharna in front of the hon. Minister's house and submitted a memorandum. In response to this the Minister had assured the faculty members that he would constitute a committee to look into the matter and the committee would submit its report within three weeks. I asked the Minister whether such a committee had been constituted and if so, what are the recommendations of the Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Was a Committee constituted and what are the recommendations, of the Committee is constituted?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: It is a fact that a Committee for promotion of the faculty members of All India Institute of Medical Sciences had been considered and the Governing Body had made certain recommendations. These recommendations have been considered by the Cabinet and these are still under consideration.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Say 'active consideration'

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I can say that they are under active consideration and I hope we will be able to take a decision very shortly.

DR. ASIM BALA: Whether these recommendations specify the date from which the new scheme would be implemented in order to preserve the seniority of the faculty members?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: So far as the question of implementation of the recommendations of the Committee is concerned, these are also under the active consideration of the Government and I would not like to divulge it at this stage.

RAO RAM SINGH: Some kinds of the treatment given in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences are very expensive.

MR. SPEAKER: This is about promotions of faculty members.

RAO RAM SINGH: Some kinds of the surgical treatment is very expensive. Some of the patients are asked to deposit Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000. Is there any provision for giving financial help to the poor people that before the operation they are not asked to deposit Rs. 50,000 which they cannot possibly do? (*Interruptions*)

I must also, in this connection, congratulate that the Ministers are giving detailed and lengthy replies. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I think the replies are in proportion to the questions.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I think the question pertains to promotions. The hon. Minister has asked a question — I mean the hon. Member, because I know him as a Minister also.

The hon. Member has asked a question whether any money has to be deposited in the All India Medical Institute for conducting these operations. I would like to say 'yes'. There is another institution in Delhi for operation and all other things, that is, G.B. Pant Hospital, where the poor people need not pay anything; and without paying anything, they can go to the this hospital and conduct these operations.

So far as the All India Medical Institute is concerned, we provide free medical aid. So far as the disposal and other imported drugs and other things are concerned, the patients have to pay for them. And there is a provision that the Minister can give something out of the discretionary grant. I think, I have not been failing in my duty and whenever any patient has come to me and I feel that the patient is poor, I have been granting very generously and very liberally to him from the grant that is available with me, to the maximum limit.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that committee constituted to suggest the measures to bring about improvement in the service conditions in AIIMS was to submit its report within a specific period? But Government should now ensure that it may not take long time and the employees are forced to restart their movement in disgust. I would like to know from the Government whether it would stick to its promise of implementing and publishing the report submitted by the concerned committee in a time-bound manner?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: This is the dicision of the Committee.

[*English*]

I think, it was awaiting my arrival in the Ministry. I can assure you and this honourable House that the Prime Minister is very keen to see that something is done about the faculty members and others in the All India Medical Institute. I am also very keen to see that something is done. I do not say anything which I cannot do.

So far as the 'time-bound' is concerned, you yourselves had wasted two years of this country by supporting a Government which was based on your legs....(*Interruptions*). Otherwise this scheme could have been implemented long long ago....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. CHARLES: The All India Institute, being a prestigious institute, has various facilities and these facilities should be made available to the needy people, apart from the VVIPs, all over the country. The main problem of the Institute is over-crowding in the out patient department. I am happy that in the answer it is given that it is planned...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not read the answer. I am not allowing you to repeat the answer.

SHRI A. CHARLES: May I know from the hon. Minister as recommended by the Estimates Committee of the 8th Lok Sabha and as answered here, given the time frame, the overcrowding of the out patients department will be removed and the real benefit is made available to the poor people?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: The hon. Member and this august House should know that the All Inida Institute is the premier institute of excellence and it is a referral hospital. We have taken a decision to restore its excellence, restore its referral status. From that point of view, I had myself laid the foundation-stone of screening OPD and this Screening OPD will be constructed in the next two and a half years. After all these things are done, I think, the referral status will be restored and the medical care will be made available to all those who need it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heard - I believe correctly - the Minister saying about two years of the earlier rule. I think, his arithmetic or sense of calendar is all wrong. Eleven months cannot be two years. You supporterd the other Government and bolstered it up.

I would like to know whether the decision to restore the referral character of this hospital will result in restriction of the access to this hospital by the ordinary people.

In the absence of better and improved hospital facilities in other places, will this decision not create difficulties for the common people of this country in having the best of treatment?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I would like to tell the hon. Member that once the train gets derailed, it takes sometime to bring it back on the rail. 11 months rule has cost this country a very long time. I need not go into details....(*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: What about 40 years?....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: Please have patience. Let us come to the question of patients, the needy people and the human suffering. I may tell the hon. Member that All Inida Medical Institute is the last resort in the country for the patients. It is not the question whether ordinary people go there or the elite go there. There those people go who are needy, who are patients whether they are elite or whether they are common men and the Institute will always remain open for those who are poor and who need the medical help.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question. Shri Mohan Singh. (*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

[*Translation*]

Review of Railway Fare and Freight Charges

*167. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any commission has been appointed for review of railway fare and freight structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such review and the terms of reference of the commission?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). a Railway Fare and Freight Committee has been constituted to make a comprehensive review of the fare and freight structure. The Committee consists of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a Member. The tenure of the Committee is two years.

(c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

A comprehensive rewiew of the Railways rating principles and policies was last undertaken by rail Tariff Enquiry Committee in 1977. Keeping in view the operating and technological changes that have taken place during the last decade and also the increase in input costs, a further review of the rating policy by a high level expert Committee is now considered necessary.

The terms of Reference of the Committee are given bekow in a summarised form :-

Terms of Referece

To examine the entire gamut of present fare and freight structure and other ancillary matters, keeping in view the increase in cost of operations, quantum and pattern of traffic expected to be carried by the Railways, changes in technology, national transport policy and overall economic development of the country.

To particularly study, review and examine the following:

1. Passenger Fares
2. Goods Rates
3. Siding Charges
4. Parcel Rates
5. Rates and Miscellaneous Charges for Military traffic and postal traffic.
6. Integrated Intermodal Services
7. Traffic Costings
8. Railway Rates Tribunal; and to make interim recommendations on any one or more subjects mentioned above as may be required by the Ministry of Railways.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply to the question it has been stated that a Rail Tariff Committee was constituted in 1977 but since the circum-

*Not recorded.